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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMMERCE**  
**NEWS**

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NATIONAL  
OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC  
ADMINISTRATION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 6, 2003

**FISHERY MANAGEMENT MEETINGS PLANNED  
FOR HAWAII TO DISCUSS CORAL REEF ISSUES**

The public is invited to attend a series of six meetings between August 13-26 to provide comments and information on Hawaii coral reefs in preparation for an upcoming U.S. Coral Reef Task Force workshop to be held later this year in Honolulu.

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force will hold a workshop in Honolulu later this year to develop strategies for effective management and understanding of fisheries that depend on coral reef ecosystems. In preparation for this workshop, NOAA Fisheries and the State of Hawaii will hold a series of planning meetings to focus on the development of a local action strategy for fishery management in Hawaiian coral reef ecosystems. Meetings will be held on several islands and are intended to give the public a voice in the planning of the workshop.

The Task Force was established in June 1998 to focus federal, state, and territorial efforts to reduce threats to the nation's coral reefs. Co-chaired by the U.S. Departments of Commerce and the Interior, the Task Force has members from 11 federal agencies and seven coastal U.S. states and territories, including Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

In 2002 the Task Force passed a resolution to improve implementation of the U.S. National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs by developing three-year local action strategies (LAS) to address the most serious threats to coral reefs including over fishing, land-based pollution and a lack of awareness of their importance to ecosystems.

The intent of the LAS is to make collaboration between Federal agencies, local governments and communities more effective in reducing threats, restoring coral reefs, and ensuring sustainable fisheries. The LAS is intended as a three-year roadmap for collaborative action and a practical implementation guide for achieving specific goals and objectives.

**WHAT:** Public dialog to gather information for a workshop that will develop a local action strategy for fishery management in Hawaiian coral reef ecosystems.

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**WHEN:** All meetings will be held from 6 - 9 p.m.

<b>WHERE:</b>	August 13, 2003 King Intermediate School	Kaneohe, Oahu
	August 14, 2003 King Kamehameha Hotel	Kona, Big Island of Hawaii
	August 15, 2003 Naniloa Hotel	Hilo, Big Island of Hawaii
	August 20, 2003 King Kamualii School	Lihue, Kauai
	August 21, 2003 Cameron Center	Wailuku, Maui
	August 26, 2003 McCoy Pavilion	Honolulu, Oahu

NOAA Fisheries is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources through scientific research, management, enforcement and the conservation of marine mammals and other protected marine species and their habitat.

The Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.

On the Internet:

NOAA Fisheries: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>

NOAA Coral Program: <http://www.coris.noaa.gov>

U.S. Coral Reef Task Force: <http://coralreef.gov>

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>